

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

AEC-05 AECE-00 IO-04 SAM-01 /067 W

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P 290838Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5588

INFO COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JA PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14030

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR CONTROVERSY

SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR USE IN
RESPONDING TO DIET COMMITTEE QUESTIONS RE NUCLEAR CONTROVERSY.
REQUEST GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY

1. FONOFF HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FOR USE IN RESPONDING TO
VARIOUS QUESTIONS POSED BY OPPOSITION DURING DIET COMMITTEE
SESSIONS. AS GENERAL RULE, EMBASSY INTENDS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, DRAWING ON INFORMATION READILY AVAILABLE
TO EMBASSY OR US FORCES. WE HAVE FOREWARNED FONOFF THAT IN SOME
CASES, INFORMATION MAY NOT BE RELEASEABLE AND IN OTHERS, ITS
COLLECTION WOULD IMPOSE UNREASONABLE BURDEN WHICH WE DO NOT
PLAN TO UNDERTAKE. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME QUESTIONS
MAY REQUIRE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. TWO OF THE LATTER HAVE ALREADY
ARISEN.

2. THE FIRST INVOLVES NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. IN RESPONSE TO
OPPOSITION QUESTION, FONOFF HAS UNDERTAKEN TO ASK US WHICH
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SEVENTH FLEET SHIPS AND WHICH U.S. AIRCRAFT IN JAPAN ARE CAPABLE

OF CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. REQUEST AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING RESPONSE: QTE IT IS THE LONG STANDING POLICY OF THE USG TO NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THE ABSENCE OR PRESENCE OF U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, SO WE NEVER DISCUSS SUCH MATTERS PUBLICLY IN ANY CONTEXT. WE CAN SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF U.S. LAND, SEA AND AIR FORCES STRESSES MOBILITY AND FLEXIBILITY. THUS, U.S. FORCES ARE CAPABLE OF DEPLOYING FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER AND OF EMPLOYING A WIDE RANGE OF WEAPONS. THIS CAPABILITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO ADAPT U.S. FORCES TO PERFORM VARIOUS MISSIONS WHICH MAY BE ASSIGNED. THIS CAPABILITY, HOWEVER, DOES NOT IMPLY THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. UNQTE.

3. OPPOSITION HAS ALSO ASKED FONOFF ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF STATEMENT BY ADMIRAL SMITH DURING 1970 SYMINGTON SUB COMMITTEE HEARINGS. ON PAGE 1236 OF TRANSCRIPT IN DESCRIBING SKILLS OF JAPANESE WORK FORCE AT YOKOSUKA, ADMIRAL SMITH SAID QTE THEY CAN DO ANYTHING WE REQUIRE DONE ON A SHIP WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NUCLEAR WORK. THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO DO THAT UNQTE. FONOFF HAS ASKED WHAT HE MEANT. WE DO NOT KNOW BUT PRESUME HE REFERRED TO WORK ON NUCLEAR PROPULSION UNITS. REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR RESPONDING TO FONOFF. HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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